

MR. CLEVELAND'S POSE.

HIS COPY OF NAPOLEONIC ATTITUDES.

THE EX-PRESIDENT AND MR. BLAINE AT THE OPERA—AMERICAN FACES THE DESIRE OF SOCIAL POSITION—THE DRESS OF NEW-YORK MEN OF FASHION—ARMOUR AND THE CATTLE-GROWERS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Isaw Grover Cleveland in a private box at the opera last evening in New-York. Mr. Cleveland sat in the back part of the box. At no time during the performance did he sit. He stood erect and nearly as motionless as a Japanese idol. He probably believes in the proverb: "Blessed are the who stand and wait." Every now and then some one would come into his box, and I observed that nearly all of the callers, who were men, paid him great deference. The ex-President would rarely turn his head to the right or the left who addressed, or occasionally let it down upon a broad chest in order properly to attend the evocation of some caller shorter than he. But during the opera the curios chattered and the peering here and there through opera glasses upon the art of the curious, the ex-President was the single stolid, unmoving figure. He had about him an air of abstraction as if he were contemplating his future, and even at the opera he posed as a candidate. His general physical condition is odd. He is paler than he was in Washington, but he has a robust air. He evidently has been allowing some system of physical training, for his weight has certainly been checked. Mrs. Cleveland, who was in front of him, was the constant recipient of many attentions, and she moved about as if unconscious of the future. But in the dim background of the box, the attention of those who were directed to it could not help passing beyond her to the impassive pose of the candidate who believed himself to be the "man of destiny."

This was a good copy of Napoleon's best attitudes; there was the same sombre gravity, the same serious looking forward and beyond which artists however loved to paint upon the characteristic face of the French conqueror. His hands were clasped behind him in the true Napoleonic manner. He could have had the cocked hat of a French gendarme brought well down on his forehead over the line of his eyebrows, the Napoleonic pose would have been much improved.

In another box near the stage was the other great figure of the campaign of 1884. This was Mr. Blaine, whencesoever to the opera in company with his daughter. He was not in the range of the Cleveland box, and probably was unconscious of the presence of his former competitor. Mr. Blaine appeared to be much interested in the opera, beating me gently at some of the lighter passages. During the extracts he was busily engaged in conversation with the pleasant group around him, so alternately stood up and sat down, and we constantly a subject of curious study upon the part of the audience. Even the majestic measures of Meyerbeer's "Prophet" were not sufficient to drive out of the minds of those present the two candidates of the past, who are spoken of to-day by everyone as the two possible leaders of the future. It was natural that the two should be there. Mr. Blaine was in New-York on a visit to his daughter, and he went there in her company; while Mr. Cleveland in his new role which we give to him by Mr. Dana, of the "Stafford Project," was naturally anxious to witness the "Prophet" of Moebeleb.

A student of American social characteristics said to me yesterday: "Observe the lines of care in nearly every American face. Between the eye-brows of nearly every woman beyond twenty-five you see a line. There is something in the climate which produces an intensity of nervous energy and mental excitement. The faces of Americans grow year by year more and more angular, and the direct evidence of this is shown in a curious illustration given me the other day by a prominent New-York dentist. He said he had observed the jaws of his patients becoming more and more contracted as the years went on, and that the teeth of the people he treated were more and more crowded together. He gives this as an evidence of the superiority of American dentists through the fact that they have more difficulty to overcome in treating jaws which are filled with overcrowded teeth. In Europe, where the climate is not so stimulating and life runs along on more peaceful lines, the faces are broader and the teeth are often wide apart."

So yesterday upon one of the fast trains between here and New-York an American mother and her two daughters, flanked by an alert escort, while in the dim background of a closed section were no wayward in attendance upon the party. This mother is the wife of a many times millionaire who a number of years ago retired from business. These millions have been devoted to one particular object, in making what is called a social position. First, there was a house at Washington. This, through liberal entertaining, became the base of operations at Newport, and after that came New-York. In the regular onward march to a place, London was assaulted and taken, beginning at the outlying works at Hounslow, and proceeding from there to Paris, and finally London. The civilization and polish of the best society of these capitals have given an air really distinguished to the tall and haughty-looking mother. It is only occasionally, when he cruelly treats her mother tongue, that early associations are revealed. Through the aid of professors she is able to speak French, perhaps more clerical and correctly than she does English. She was celebrated in her early social career for her original methods of dealing with society at large, which produced at first amused curiosity, but in the end became much more than tolerance, for it was impossible to look for a long time at people who have millions. But the daughter, after all represents the very flower of triumph of unmetabolized millions in the march of social development. The daughter has been brought up as a princess. She has had all of the instruction given to one in the highest position, and her appearance indicates that she has profited by this position. She is tall, dark, and with an individuality not common. Her manner is that of a princess into quiet reserve and tranquil ease. The star of the future which shines in the maternal horizon is the hope that this daughter will some day fill a prince who will be willing to exchange his title for her royal dowry. This is the hope for result of years, first, of toil in the world of trade, and then of the ardent and bold campaign of several years in the fashionable capitals of Europe. The head of the family is the one serious obstacle. He was once described as "an impossible eterm with a broken-glass veneer and seventy-five gold waistcoats."

A young Englishman, who is a member of one of the leading London clubs, has been visiting in New-York for several days. He said, in speaking of the fashionable young men of New-York: "They were grossly libeled by the American newspapers. I see that your newspapers accuse these young men of imitating the English gentlemen, and that they patter their manners after the approved code of the best London clubs. This, I think, is untrue. I am sure I never saw any youthful New-York swell who resembled in the slightest degree my English gentleman. I never knew. I never have seen one of them who even dressed like one. There is an originality about American dress which you never see among Englishmen. We have more conventional standards of dress. There are few of us who would venture to dress in any marked way differing from those with whom he is brought in daily contact. In nothing is this more clearly shown than in the difference between evening dress in New-York and evening dress in London. No man who belongs to the smart set in London would ever disgrace himself by wearing an embroidered shirt-bosom or an embroidered waistcoat with evening dress. Absolute simplicity is the rule. The best dressed men are those who wear no jewelry, not even a watch-chain. The wear of wearing the handkerchief carelessly exposed in the encircling line of the waistcoat is a foolish idea which I do not at all understand. The handkerchief at best is not an article of adorn-

ment, and the least seen of it the better. I see some of the young New-York fellows have even taken to wearing black handkerchiefs in the same way. It is a question in my mind whether a man who should appear at the door of an English club with one of these black abominations disposed of in a festoon of supposed adoration would be admitted. I think it would take a good tip to the house-porter to secure his entrance."

A prominent owner in the cattle business in the West said to me yesterday: "I am one of the stockholders and directors of a ranch sixty miles long by forty miles wide. We have 40,000 head of cattle. We have managed our business upon the most economical lines, and yet for ever since the beginning of the new year. It takes a great deal of courage on the part of a hostess to give a small dinner party, and some of the largest receptions of the season. Owing to the nearness of the holiday season, these receptions are now about at an end, and few known as "fests" will be given until after the beginning of the new year. It takes a great deal of courage on the part of a hostess to give a small dinner party, and such a dance adds so much to the comfort and pleasure of those invited that their thanks and appreciation more than make up for the injured look of those left out. Mrs. Mortimer's dance on Monday night was small, brilliant and comfortable, consequently successful, and her guests were almost entirely of the younger married and dancing set. Mr. Cannon led the call with the hostess. The favors were simple and pretty.

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THE WEEK IN SOCIETY.

DINNER PARTIES AND RECEPITIONS.

Though there has been no great ball in the last week, there have been a brilliant small dance, many handsome dinner parties, and some of the largest receptions of the season. Owing to the nearness of the holiday season, these receptions are now about at an end, and few known as "fests" will be given until after the beginning of the new year. It takes a great deal of courage on the part of a hostess to give a small dinner party, and such a dance adds so much to the comfort and pleasure of those invited that their thanks and appreciation more than make up for the injured look of those left out. Mrs. Mortimer's dance on Monday night was small, brilliant and comfortable, consequently successful, and her guests were almost entirely of the younger married and dancing set. Mr. Cannon led the call with the hostess. The favors were simple and pretty.

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THE CHARITY EXHIBITION TO CLOSE WITH A SALE.—MR. DEPEW AND MR. WILDER TO WIELD THE HAMMER.

The Doll Show in the "Judge" Building is about over. Tomorrow there will be an auction sale of dolls dressed by a number of well-known actresses, and by Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Morton and others. The following men have consented to act as auctioneers: Chamberlain, Mr. DePew, Marshall, Mr. Wilder, Joseph Polk, Louis Harrison, William H. Crane, Neil Burgess, Duncan Thompson, Dr. Angelo, Russell H. Garrison, Tony Pastor, and W. J. Arkell. The auction is to take place promptly at 2 o'clock.

Yesterdays all the place dolls were placed upon a separate table. In the morning there was a large delegation of poor children present as the guests of the proprietors of "Frank Leslie's Illustrated News-paper." After luncheon the dolls the children were photographed on the steps of the building. The rooms were filled during the afternoon and evening. The phonograph on the second floor continues to attract large crowds. On the piano stage in the main room the twenty young ladies from Boston gave one of the best programmes of the week. Mrs. Percy and her associates were busy all day putting out special dolls and directing the affairs generally. The following are the ladies who have served as patrollers and judges, many of whom have been present day after day, and have contributed largely to the success of the exhibition:

Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, Mrs. East, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. George L. Kendell, Miss G. E. Thompson, Mr. George L. Cheever, Mrs. William H. Choate, Mrs. J. Schuyler Greenbaum, Mrs. Van Rensselaer Stinger, Mrs. John G. Curtis, Mrs. Chamberlain, Miss. Jessie H. Derby, Mrs. E. T. Dyer, Mrs. Geraldine, Miss George J. Gould, Mrs. David H. Green, Mrs. Susan Hayes, Mrs. Russell Harlan, Mrs. Richard Hyatt, Mrs. Robert Jones, "The" Mrs. Jonathan Ridings, Mrs. Anna Maria, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. George S. Scott, Mrs. Eliza, Mrs. Emily, and Mrs. Beckman, nearly all the guests appearing at Mrs. Farnes' tea-table.

The heavy storm of Wednesday did not prevent a crush at Mr. Jeffray's Fifth Avenue home, where his grand daughters, Miss May Jaffray and Miss Ethel Hart, were introduced to society. They had been at the party of the night before and at the Patriarch's ball, but their more formal introduction was accomplished on Wednesday, when the usual fifteen hundred who attend the crowded receptions of the winter were on hand. Mr. Genet's reception with music at her Gramercy Park home was small and enjoyable from the fact that all tended to the music seated in a comfortable chair, quite 200 people being present. The music was especially effective, the four harp players, three being young women, who were flowing robes of white, adding greatly to the attractiveness of the dancing room, besides affording a devoted ministry to people who must be well nigh saturated with music. Miss Edmunds, a Boston contralto, sang as did also Mr. Lavin, a tenor new to this city. Among Miss Gertrude's guests were Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Nicholas Flueh, Mrs. George L. Hayes, Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. George Bent, and some of the English people now visiting New-York.

Mrs. Astor's reception on Thursday afternoon was a great crush, nearly every one with any claim to social importance being present. Mrs. Astor was dressed in a gorgeous gown of dark blue satin and gold brocade trimmed with Venetian point lace, the same gown in which she was painted last summer while in Paris. Mr. Astor's portrait was done at the same time, and both were displayed at the reception. Mrs. M. Orme Wilson was added to her mother in receiving. Late in January Mrs. Astor will give a ball.

The clubhouse was opened for the use of members on December 12, having been entirely refitted since it was the home of Dr. Cornelius R. Agnew. The Alpha Delta Phi Club was formed at a meeting held at Delmonico's, on September 23, as the result of an agitation started among residents. Alpha Delta Phi, "by far the best," according to its president, is a Boston club, and the clubroom is in the residence of Mr. James M. Hart, Letitia B. Hart, John LaFarge, P. F. Ryden, C. S. Forbes, M. F. H. De Haas, Arthur Porton, T. W. Wood, J. C. Nicoll, Werling on Whitridge, Harper Pennington, J. G. Brown, Henry H. Beaud, Krausen Van Elten, Joseph Lyman, Horatio Walker, William M. Chase, Edgar M. Ward and Daniel Huntington.

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